IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 13, as follows:

In the numerical analysis, being represented by, such as, the finite-element method, for example, a model is made up with aggregation of elements, such as, a hexahedron and/or a tetrahedron, for example, as the material to be a target of analyzing (i.e., an analysis target). Also, in a case where the target material of analyzing has a thin-plate structure, a load on computing thereof can be reduced by utilizing a tetragon element and/or a triangle element, to which is given thickness as [[a]] an attribute value thereof. When using a three(3)-dimensional CAD system, since a material (i.e., a configuration model) was already produced as for the analysis target, therefore even the configuration model of the thin-plate structure is defined to be a solid having thickness.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 25, as follows:

Conventionally, in a method for producing such [[the]] a shell-model for use in analyzing from the solid-model of thin-plate structure, as is described in Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. Hei 6-259505 (1994) <JP-A 6-259505>, for example, a thin plate-like configuration portion is designated as the configuration model to be the target of numerical analysis, and then a surface is extracted, which has a geometric feature of being parallel to the surface, among surfaces connecting to the configuration designated. And, the The surfaces, being in parallel with the surface extracted and also being shortest in the distance therebetween, are specified as a pair, and a medial-surface is produced with respect to the pair of surfaces, thereby producing the analysis model.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 21, as follows:

However, in the method for producing the shell-model for use in analyzing, which is described in the Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. Hei 6-259505, for example, since an operator must give an instruction to the thin film-like configuration part, and also only the surface contacting in parallel with the configuration instructed comes to be a target of producing the neutral surface, the operator must give [[the]] instructions [[in]] a ~~plural~~ number of times to that configuration, in particular, if it is a complicated configuration model, and/or a configuration having a rib, for example, and therefore it is not easy to produce the shell model for use in analyzing.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 23 as follows:

Conventionally, since the thin-plate like configuration portion is designated by an operator, she/he must ~~designate~~ input designations of the configuration [[by]] a ~~plural~~ number of times, in particular, when it has a rib or is the complicated configuration model, however according to the present embodiment, the internal-surface model can be produced, only by inputting the reference-plate thickness, easily. Also, conventionally, the neutral surface model is produced, not as the configuration model, but as the mesh data, therefore it is necessary to re-produce the configuration model form the mesh data when changing the configuration for a parameter survey, etc. However, according to the present embodiment, since the internal-surface model is produced as the configuration model, it is possible to change the configuration, easily, on the configuration of the internal-surface model produced, by conducting the operations, such as, the bending process and the drilling process, for example. Accordingly, it is possible to produce the analytical shell-model, easily.